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1962/10/22

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INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Control: 16900
Rec'd: October 22, 1962
11:20 p.m.

FROM: Rio de Janeiro

TO: Secretary of State

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

NO: 899, October 22, 10 p.m.

DATE 2/1/92

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Arranged date 6:30 p.m. local (5:30 EST) with Goulart accompanied Bond and Colonel Walters. Had sought unsuccessfully secure presence Hermes Lima and Kruei, but neither available.

I introduced subject as most grave, summarizing evidence on Soviet offensive buildup in Cuba. Goulart visibly shocked and interrupted to say Rusk himself 3 weeks ago had emphasized defensive character Soviet weapons. If offensive buildup true, he said no doubt about Brazil's solidarity with U.S.

We then gave running oral translation speech through part three (part four received only after interview). He listened carefully, noted vigorous character statements on Soviets, and said even stronger language should be used with Soviets, who are always harshly threatening others.

At same time, Goulart seemed somewhat surprised at mildness. action step one. He had mistakenly thought that blockade against arms importation already in effect. I explained this not so, and that new step included stoppage and search Soviet as well as other vessels. I also explained that Latin American Ambassadors were being briefed at that moment, with presentation photographs and other intelligence evidence nature offensive buildup. He expressed most intense interest this evidence, saying proofs would be critical to his ability

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-2- 879, October 22, 10 p.m. from Rio de Janeiro

to take strong stand in support U.S., including justifying before Brazilian public. Indicated he would telephone Campos tonight for his reaction.

We then read text of letter, second section just received, and promised deliver Portuguese translation later in evening. I emphasized our intense interest three Brazilian actions:

(1) Endorsement convocation consultative meeting and resolution on lines paragraph six Department Circular telegram 700;

(2) Public statement by Brazilian Government, and support in U. N.;

(3) Internal security measures including special precautions American installations.

On OAS action, Goulart seemed very sympathetic provided convincing proof furnished.

Reaffirmed that previous Brazilian position supported right any nation defend itself against aggression, including Cuban defense against attack by exiles or others, but that Russian offensive bases in Cuba, constituting clear danger aggression against other American nations, including faithful and old friend and ally and U.S., was wholly different matter. Stated he believed Soviets had committed grave diplomatic error by this action, and speculated on their motives in relation Berlin, et cetera, saying seemed incredible that they really seriously wanted risk war. He said U.S. was stronger than U.S.S.R. and could obliterate Cuba in an instant. When I said course of action now proposed was designed avoid killing innocent Cubans, he replied "What and let Americans get killed instead?" Coming to specific action, he pointed to limitations his authority, since Presidentialism still de facto and under dying parliamentary system Prime Minister and Cabinet still responsible. Undertook consult tonight with Hermes Lima and Krueel and other available Ministers. Requested we furnish Portuguese translations President's letter, full text of speech, and draft resolution when available. We are providing them this evening.

GORDON

Note: Advance copy S/S 10/23 CWO-JRL.

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